

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OES-06 EPA-01  
CEQ-01 /076 W

-----091839Z 089013 /44

R 091826Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0426

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: BORDEAUX/TOULOUSE DELEGATION ON  
CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 5525

1. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MARCH 8 AM  
DELEGATION FROM BORDEAUX/TOULOUSE REGION WHICH  
PRESENTED HIM WITH RESULTS OF WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN  
LAUNCHED BY NEWSPAPERS THAT REGION AS REPORTED  
REFTEL. MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WERE  
EDITOR/PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS SUD-OUEST AND  
LA DEPECHE DU MIDI; SECRETARY-GENERAL OF COMMITTEE FOR  
DEFENSE OF CONCORDE, WHICH HAS ITS  
HEADQUARTERS IN TOULOUSE; PRESIDENT OF FRANCE/ETATS-  
UNIS CHAPTER IN TOULOUSE; AND AMERICAN PRESIDENT  
OF OLIN-MATHIESSON EUROPE WHO HAS A HOME IN  
SOUTHWEST FRANCE. DELEGATION'S VISIT HAD RECEIVED  
ADVANCE PUBLICITY AS INTEREST IN CONCORDE  
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DEVELOPMENTS BUILT UP TO CRESCENDO ON FRENCH SCENE  
THESE PAST FEW DAYS, AND PRESS AND TV WERE VERY  
MUCH IN ATTENDANCE IN FRONT OF CHANCERY.  
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND JOURNALISTS WERE PERMITTED ON  
POOL BASIS TO ATTEND DELEGATION'S RECEPTION WITHIN  
EMBASSY AND WERE PRESENT THROUGHOUT AMBASSADOR'S  
75-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH THE DELEGATION.

2. DELEGATION PRESENTED AMBASSADOR WITH AFFIDAVIT ATTESTING TO RECEIPT 113,568 RESPONSES IN WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN. THEY INDICATED THAT ACTUAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES WAS CLOSER TO 120,000, BUT PROBLEM OF CENTRALIZING TALLY AS BETWEEN TOULOUSE AND BORDEAUX AND NEED TO CUT OFF TALLY AT POINT ENABLING FORMAL AFFIDAVIT TO BE EXECUTED PREVENTED THEM FROM CITING LARGER FIGURE. THEY STRESSED THAT PEOPLE OF SOUTHWEST REGION ARE NOT MUCH GIVEN TO WRITING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, SO THE FACT THAT CAMPAIGN HAD PRODUCED SUCH OVERWHELMING RESULTS IN ONLY TEN DAYS WAS, IN THEIR VIEW, AN EXTRA-ORDINARY SHOW OF THE LEVEL OF POPULAR SENTIMENT IN THAT REGION IN FAVOR OF CONCORDE. THE DELEGATION ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO BRING THE RESULTS OF THIS CAMPAIGN TO ATTENTION OF NEW YORK AUTHORITIES ON THEIR BEHALF, AND THEY EXPRESSED REGRET THAT NEITHER GOV. CAREY NOR PORT AUTHORITY HAD BEEN READY TO RECEIVE THEM TO BE GIVEN RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN AT FIRST HAND. THEY FURTHER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD INTERVENE IN EFFORT OBTAIN AUDIENCE FOR THEM WITH GOV. CAREY OR PORT AUTHORITY SO THAT THEY COULD OUTLINE THEIR VIEWS ON THE CONCORDE QUESTION. (ON THIS LATTER POINT AMBASSADOR WAS ENTIRELY NON-COMMITTAL.)

3. DELEGATION PROFITED FROM OCCASION TO OUTLINE NOW FAMILIAR VIEWS ON CONCORDE E.G., CONCERN OVER DELAY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORIZATION OF CONCORDE LANDING AT NEW YORK, QUESTIONING OF VALIDITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIONS AS WELL AS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSED INABILITY TO INFLUENCE NEW YORK DECISION. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN WERE INDEED IMPRESSIVE AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO INFORM CHAIRMAN OF PORT AUTHORITY OF DELEGATION'S VISIT AND RESULTS OF WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN. (AMBASSADOR'S TELEGRAM TO CHAIRMAN RONAN OF PORT AUTHORITY IS CONTAINED IN PARIS 6744.) DECISION WAS TO BE TAKEN BY PORT AUTHORITY AND NOT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PORT AUTHORITY WAS THEREFORE LOGICAL RECIPIENT OF OBJECT OF DELEGATION'S DEMARCHE TO EMBASSY. AMBASSADOR THEN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION (AND THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS) TO OUTLINE IN SOME DETAIL THE REALITIES ON THE US SCENE. HE STRESSED THAT JUST AS THE DELEGATION AND FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL HAD DIFFICULTY COMPREHENDING HOW

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-06 EPA-01 CEQ-01  
/076 W  
-----091838Z 089040 /44

R 091826Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0427  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
FAA BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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NEW YORK AUTHORITIES COULD NOT SEE THINGS  
THEIR WAY, SO DID EMBASSY EXPERIENCE GREAT  
DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WAYS TO GET THE TRUE FACTS  
OF THE US SCENE ON CONCORDE ACROSS TO THE FRENCH  
PUBLIC. HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THIS  
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AFFORDED TO CLARIFY  
MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MIGHT EXIST ON EITHER SIDE.

4. MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR ONE  
HALF HOUR, LASTED ONE HOUR AND A QUARTER. DELEGATION  
LEFT HIGHLY PLEASED AT RECEPTION THEY HAD RECEIVED.

5. WE HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING RESULTS  
OF CAMPAIGN BE DELIVERED TO EMBASSY WHEN INFORMED  
BY SUD-OUEST EDITOR END LAST WEEK THAT GOV. CAREY  
HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE DELEGATION AND WHEN IT  
EMERGED THAT CHAIRMAN RONAN OF PORT AUTHORITY  
SIMILARLY REFUSED AND ANY APPROACH TO NEW YORK  
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MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES WAS DISCOURAGED.  
BEING COMMITTED TO THEIR READERSHIP TO DELIVER  
RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN TO NEW YORK, BOTH NEWSPAPERS  
AND CONCORDE DEFENSE COMMITTEE FELT OBLIGED  
TO SEND REPS TO NEW YORK ANYWAY, WITH INTENTION OF  
HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE THERE IF NECESSARY  
ANNOUNCING THAT NEW YORK AUTHORITIES REFUSED RECEIVE  
THEM. IT WAS IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF UNFAVORABLE  
PLAYBACK IN FRANCE, WHERE FAILURE OF DELEGATION TO  
BE RECEIVED IN NEW YORK WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED  
AS CLEAR CONFIRMATION OF NEW YORK AUTHORITIES'  
OPPOSITION TO AND BIAS AGAINST CONCORDE, THAT WE  
MADE OUR SUGGESTION AS ALTERNATIVE TO THEIR GOING  
TO NEW YORK, WHICH WAS AT FIRST REFUSED AND THEN  
ON REFLECTION ACCEPTED. (IN TV INTERVIEW MARCH 8  
REP FROM COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF CONCORDE  
WHO HAD BEEN PART OF DELEGATION NONETHELESS ANNOUNCED  
THAT HE PLANNED DEPART MARCH 9 FOR NEW YORK, TAKING  
WITH HIM SEVERAL MAIL SACKS CONTAINING ALL THE  
RESPONSES RECEIVED IN THE WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN.)

6. WE HAD ALERTED PORT AUTHORITY INFORMALLY IN  
ADVANCE THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD RECEIVE DELEGATION  
AND THEN SO INFORM CHAIRMAN RONAN IN TELEX MESSAGE  
THAT WE WERE RELEASING TO PRESS AT THIS END FOR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS REASONS. PORT AUTHORITY REP  
THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO RONAN'S  
RECEIVING DELEGATION IN NEW YORK.

7. SINCE THIS DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE TWO  
RECEIVED ON MARCH 7 (PARIS 6354) HAVE SPECIFICALLY  
ASKED THAT THEIR VIEWS BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION  
OF NEW YORK AUTHORITIES, WE LEAVE TO DEPARTMENT  
TO DETERMINE HOW THIS CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED  
(IN ADDITION TO TELEGRAM , PARIS 6744, WE  
HAVE ALREADY SENT PORT AUTHORITY).

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, FR, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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